

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 DHA-02 /082 W
-----129235 221230Z /44

R 220558Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4942
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLO, LE
SUBJECT: PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STATEMENT

1. PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MET IN BEIRUT AUGUST 17 AND 18
UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF YASSER ARAFAT. AFTERWARDS, COMMITTEE
SPOKESMAN ABU MAIZAR ISSUED MOST UNCOMPROMISING AUTHORITATIVE
PALESTINIAN STATEMENT SINCE SECRETARY VANCE DEPARTED
WASHINGTON ON HIS MIDDLE EAST VISIT. AS REPORTED BY Wafa,
ABU MAIZAR CLAIMED THAT "VANCE'S TOUR AND HIS SUGGESTIONS"
WERE TO:

-- "IGNORE INALIENABLE RIGHTS" OF PALESTINIANS;

-- "BYPASS RABAT RESOLUTIONS" (WHICH RECOGNIZED PLO AS ONLY
LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE);

-- "IGNORE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS," PARTICULARLY
RESOLUTION 3236;

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--"IMPOSE IMPERIALIST-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ON ARAB REGION."

2. IN ADDITION, ABU MAIZAR SAID THAT CAREFUL DISTINCTION
MUST BE MADE BETWEEN ENEMY AND FRIENDLY CAMPS, THE LATTER
BEING "HEADED BY USSR." FINALLY, HE STRESSED THAT PLO
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REAFFIRMED POSITIONS OF PALESTINIAN
CONGRESS WITH REGARD TO RESOLUTION 242.

3. COMMENTS: DELIBERATIONS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WERE PROBABLY STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY ISRAELI DECISION TO EXTEND "EQUAL RIGHTS" TO WEST BANK AND ESTABLISH NEW SETTLEMENT THERE. AT PRESS CONFERENCE IN DAMASCUS ON AUGUST 16, FOR EXAMPLE, ABU MAIZAR NOTED THAT EXTENSION OF "EQUAL RIGHTS" DEMANDED "REEVALUATION OF ARAB STAND, PARTICULARLY STAND OF THOSE WHO RELIED ON U.S. ROLE TO PUT PRESSURE IN ISRAEL."

4. IN THIS REGARD, ISRAELI MOVES SEEM TO HAVE BOLSTERED POSITION OF HARDLINERS WITHIN PLO, AS EVIDENCED BY ABU MAIZAR'S POINTED PRAISE FOR USSR. MOREOVER, UNLIKE OTHER RECENT PLO STATEMENTS, WHICH CALLED FOR EITHER CHANGE IN RESOLUTION 242 OR A NEW SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION, PRESENT STATEMENT MERELY MADE STOCK CONDEMNATION OF RESOLUTION 242, THUS SUGGESTING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WAS HESITANT TO SHOW ANY FLEXIBILITY AT ALL ON ISSUE. END COMMENTS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, PALESTINIANS, COMMITTEES, SPEECHES, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BEIRUT04088
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770302-0574
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770839/aaaabgnw.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7e7cfa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1532757
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STATEMENT
TAGS: PDEV, OVIP, LE, PLO, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (ARAFAT, YASSER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7e7cfa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009